

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 5 1. A fishing bait apparatus comprising:
 a container having side, upper and lower walls, and also
 having an open top;
 a lid assembly including a lid member being hingedly attached
 to said container and also including lid support members for
10 supporting said lid member in an open position;
 a handle assembly including a handle being pivotally attached
 to said container;
 bait storage members being disposed in said container and
 upon said upper wall; and.
15 a floatation member being disposed in said container for
 floating said container upside down.
- 20 2. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 1, wherein
 said upper wall has a plurality of holes being disposed therethrough
 and is spaced generally parallel above said bottom wall thus
 forming a water compartment between said upper and lower walls.
- 25 3. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 2, wherein
 said container also includes air holes being disposed through a
 portion of said side wall above said upper wall of said container.
- 30 4. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 3, wherein
 said lid assembly further includes brackets being attached to an
 underside of said lid member and having slots therein, and also
 includes eyelets being attached to said inner side of said side wall,
 and further includes a catch mechanism being securely attached to

said side wall near a top edge thereof and having a housing with an opening therein and also having a spring-loaded catch being biasedly disposed through said side wall of said container and in said housing, and also includes a latch being attached to said
5 underside of said lid member and being removably received and engaged by said catch in said housing for latching said lid member upon said open top of said container.

5. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 4, wherein
10 said lid support members are strings each having a first end portion which is connected to a respective said bracket, and also being strung through a respective said eyelet.

6. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 5, wherein
15 said lid assembly also includes a battery-operated light-emitting member being attached to said underside of said lid member.

7. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 5, wherein said handle assembly includes a pair of disc-shaped handle retainers
20 being attached to an outer side of said side wall of said container and having axially-extended bores disposed therein.

8. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 7, wherein said handle includes end portions which are securely disposed in
25 said axially-extended bores of said disc-shaped handle retainers.

9. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 5, wherein said bait storage members includes a plurality of partitions being disposed upon said upper wall in said container, and also includes a
30 plurality of gate support members being attached to said partitions,

and further includes gate members being slidably supported by said gate support members for forming bait storage compartments upon said upper wall in said container, and also includes tab members being attached to said gate members for retaining said gate
5 members in open positions.

10. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 5,
wherein said bait storage members include cylindrical members
being disposed side-by side and having openings being disposed
10 through said walls thereof, and also include gates support members
being attached to said cylindrical members, and further include gate
members being supported by said gate support members and being
closeable over said openings of said cylindrical members.

15 11. The fishing bait apparatus as described in claim 10,
wherein said bait storage members also include boxes being
removably disposed upon said upper wall of said container for
storing worms, and further include covers being removably disposed
upon said boxes and having venting holes being disposed
20 therethrough, and also include tubular air inlets being disposed in
side walls of said boxes for allowing air to vent into said boxes.